

REMARKS

This is responsive to the final Office Action dated February 26, 2004 in which the Examiner rejects all the pending claims 1-15 and 19-36 as either being anticipated by Crowe et al (US Patent No. 6,115,460), Neyman (US Patent No. 6,215,783), Gordon et al. (US Patent No. 4,905,273) under 35USC § 102 (e) or § 102(b), or being obvious over combinations of Crowe, Neyman, Gordon, Chang (US Publication No. 2003/0095542), Girard (US Publication No. 2003/0095542), Smith (US Publication No. 2003/0123632) and Galvin (US Patent No. 6,134,315) under 35USC § 103(a).

Applicants have further amended independent claims 1, 7, 10, 12, 19, 25 and dependent claims 2 and 13 to better define the present invention, and cancelled claims 30-36 without prejudice. In particular, independent claims 1, 7, 10, 12, 19 and 25 are amended to include a distinguishing feature of selecting an optimal one from plural originating gateways each being capable of conveying said call to a data network, which cannot be found a teaching or implication in any of the cited patents. This distinguishing feature is fully supported by the original Specification (see, e.g., page 28, lines 5-9). Thus, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of the Examiner based on the amendment to the claims and the following detailed explanation.

Chang et al (US Publication No. 2003/0095542) discloses an integrated voice gateway system which can route a voice telephone call over an IP network or over the PSTN. However, Chang does not teach to select an optimal one from plural originating gateways each being capable of conveying said call to a data network. In particular, though a plural of gateway networks 4,6,8 and a plural of gateway servers 26-1, 26-2, ..., 26-6 are disclosed in Chang (see Figs. 1 and 3A, paragraph 0076, 0089, 0090), Chang does not teach or imply that these plural

gateway networks or gateway servers are capable of conveying the same call to a data network, and an optimal one is selected from those capable of conveying the same call.

Crowe et al (US Patent No. 6,115,460) discloses a remote call redirection system in a local access network to direct data traffic destined for the Internet to a channel connected directly to the Internet thereby reducing congestion within the local access network. Crowe does not teach anything about gateway. In fact, no protocol conversion between two networks is involved in Crowe, and therefore there is no gateway in Crowe.

Neyman (US Patent No. 6,215,783) discloses a hybrid IP backbone network for bridging nodes in PSTN networks so as to save call cost. Neyman, however does not teach to select an optimal one from plural originating gateways each being capable of conveying said call to a data network. In fact, no plural of originating gateways are disclosed in Neyman which are capable of conveying the same call to the data network.

Gordon et al (US Patent No. 4,905,273) discloses a device for routing a call from a fax machine either to a PSTN network or a data network depending on the dialed telephone number. Gordon, however, does not teach anything about gateway, and therefore there is no teaching or implication of selecting an optimal one from plural originating gateways each being capable of conveying said call to a data network in Gordon.

Applicants have also reviewed other cited references Smith (US Publication No. 2003/0123632), Girard (US Publication No. 2003/0095542) and Galvin (US Patent No. 6,134,315), and cannot find in any of them a teaching of selecting an optimal one from plural originating gateways each being capable of conveying said call to a data network, too.

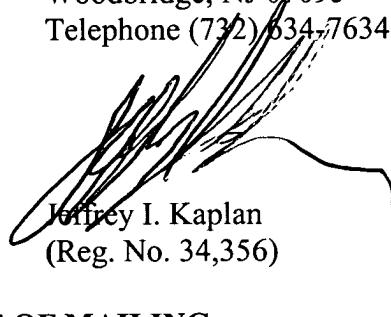
Therefore, Applicants believe independent claims 1, 7, 10, 12, 19, 25 are patentable. At least for the same reasons, dependent claims 2-6, 8-9, 11, 13-15, 20-24 and 26-29 are also patentable as each of them includes all the limitations of one of the independent claims.

The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims and allowance of them in view of the above remarks and the amendments. A status of small entity is claimed in this application. The Examiner is authorized to deduct any fees believed due from our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

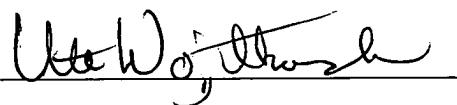
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on May 26, 2004.

Dated May 26, 2004 Signed  Print Name Ute Wojtkowski